

**Nevada Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease  
State Plan Recommendations Planning Template**

**Recommendation #:** 10 Awareness of Dementia and the Legal Profession

**TFAD Member Lead:** Susan Hirsch

**Current Recommendation as Stated:**

Recommendation #10: Awareness of Dementia and the Legal Profession

Awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia is crucial to effective representation of legal services clients. Their need to be protected from exploitation includes, but is not limited to, such areas as: estate planning, guardianship, decision-making and advanced care planning. Students entering law-related professions, including, but not limited to, attorneys, paralegals, and related careers should be offered, through their course of study, opportunities to learn, discuss, and consider the specifics of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This includes, but is not limited to, professional responsibility for effective representation of clients with capacity issues and estate planning for clients, who are at risk of exploitation, undue influence, or capacity concerns. After completion of course study, licensed professionals are urged to pursue continuing legal education (CLE) in the area of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The State Bar of Nevada (the licensing entity for Nevada attorneys), the Board of Continuing Legal Education, as well as trade associations, such as the Washoe County Bar and Clark County Bar Associations, are encouraged to promote awareness and education related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. These CLE programs would provide legal professionals with ongoing education about recent developments, research, and treatments about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, including, but not limited to, application to issues of independence, decision making, and advanced care planning. Further, TFAD supports the offering of CLE credits for dementia-related, medically-based courses for legal professionals that could satisfy ethics credits for these licensed professionals.

**Indicators:**

Increased number of quality educational opportunities, both pre- and post- professional education or training, which are offered in schools of post-secondary education and increased number of students who complete this coursework. Syllabus or other information related to topics covered at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law related to encouraged topics of concern. CLE offerings in the topic area, as well as data on professionals, who have taken such training to complete requirements or to advance ongoing education. Determine number of courses offered to interested stakeholders by qualified members of the legal community. 17 Potential

**Funding:**

Grants, donations and/or gifts. Specific sources may include: • State appropriations to higher education.

**Determination:**

- 1) Retained as is
- 2) Retired to the Appendix
- 3) **Revised/Update**

**Justification:**

The suggested revisions maintain the focus on increasing awareness and education about dementia within the legal profession, with updates in language and inclusion of suggested educational topics for students in law-related professions and legal practitioners.

**Suggestion Revisions:****Recommendation #10 Awareness of Dementia and the Legal Profession**

In the legal profession, awareness and a fundamental understanding of dementia is crucial for effective representation of clients who are living with dementia. These individuals may seek consultation in any area of the law and thus, knowledge about dementia is essential for all practitioners.

To advance effective legal representation for people living with dementia, TFAD supports the availability of educational options to increase awareness and knowledge of topics related to dementia designed for students pursuing legal professions and licensed professionals completing required continuing legal education (CLE). Judges and court personnel are encouraged to participate in dementia friendly education and trainings.

Educational topics would include but are not limited to:

- Capacity for decision-making (related to health care, finances, living arrangements and other pertinent decisions)
- Advance care planning (completion of documents reflecting an individual's wishes for their health care, living arrangements and request to nominate a guardian)
- Estate planning
- Adult guardianship
- Risk of exploitation, abuse, and neglect
- Ethical considerations for effective representation of clients living with dementia
- Information related to dementia (possible warning signs, diagnostic process, ongoing care and supportive resources, and family caregiving)
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TFAD encourages UNLV's William S Boyd School of Law, National Judicial College, State Bar of Nevada (the licensing entity for Nevada attorneys), trade associations such as the Washoe County Bar and Clark County Bar Associations, and Nevada's legal services providers to promote awareness and education related to dementia. Further, TFAD supports the offering of CLE credits for dementia-related, medically-based courses for legal professionals that could satisfy the annual licensure requirements for ethics.

### Indicators

Assess number, topics, and participation rate annually for educational opportunities, both pre- and post-professional education (CLE) offered through UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law, the legal community, Nevada's senior legal services providers and ASD. Request CLE providers offer feedback from participant evaluations in dementia-related CLE programs.

### Potential Funding

Grants, donations and/or gifts

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